

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 STR-04 /042 W

----- 043253

R 090821Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0028

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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DEPT. PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS FOR GRAIN & FEED DIV

E. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN GRAIN SITUATION FOR 1976/77

1. AGATT MET SAMU OF AGRIMPEX FOREIGN TRADE ORGAINZATION  
ON NOV. 5 TO DISCUSS LATEST GRAIN SITUATION IN HUNGARY.  
FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS MADE BY SAMU.

2. SMALL GRAIN HARVEST OF 1976 WAS BETTER THAN EXPECTED  
GIVEN THE UNFAVORABLE WEATHER DURING PAST SUMMER. WHEAT  
CROP CAME TO 4.9 MILLION TONS AGAINST 4.0 MILLION IN 1975.  
THIS CROP ALONE WOULD GIVE HUNGARY ABOUT 1 MILLION TON  
EXPORT SURPLUS IF CORN CROP WAS AT LEAST AVERAGE. THIS  
IS NOT THE CASE THIS YEAR.

3. CORN HARVEST IS SOME 2 TO 3 WEEKS BEHIND NORMAL  
SCHEDEULE AND AT PRESENT ONLY HALF WAY THROUGH. DUE TO  
POOR WEATHER DURING ALMOST ENTIRE GROWING SEASON CORN CROP MAY  
BE BEARLY 2 MILLION TONS BELOW RECORD 7.2 MILLION TONS  
IN 1975. CURRENT ESTIMATES RUN AROUND 5.5 MILLION  
TON CROP WHICH MEANS AN AVERAGE YIELD AROUND 42 QUINTALS PER  
HECTARE, DOWN FROM 50 QUINTALS IN 1975.

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4. SINCE JULY 1976 HUNGARY SOLD ONLY SMALL QUANTITIES WHEAT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DOUBTS WHEAT EXPORTS DURING SEASON WILL GO MUCH BEYOND QUANTITIES COMMITTED IN LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE RELATIVELY SMALL.

5. IN EXPECTATION OF POOR CORN CROP, HUNGARY RECENTLY BOUGHT 150,000 TONS CORN FROM ROMANIA AS AN INSURANCE FOR ADEQUATE CORN SUPPLIES FOR COMMING SEASON. SAMU THOUGHT HUNGARY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXPORT 1976 CORN FOR IT IS NEEDED TO ASSURE GRWING DEMAND BY HUNGARIAN PIG INDUSTRY. SAMU EMPHASIEZED THIS VIEWS ARE ONLY TENTATIVE SINCE FINAL RESULTS CORN HARVEST NOT YET AT HAND.

6. COMMENTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL DURING THE COMING SEASON 1976/77 HUNGARY'S GRAIN EXPORTS WILL MATCH OR EVEN COME CLOSE TO 1.8 MILLION TONS STIPULATED IN STATE PLAN. IT IS KNOWN THAT THE COUNTRY'S LONG RANGE COMMITMENTS CALL FOR AN ANNUAL DELIVERY OF 200,000 TONS OF GRAIN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SMALLER QUANTITIES TO EAST GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION. SINCE WHEAT IS ONLY GRAIN IN WHICH HUNGARY HAS SOME EXPORTABLE SURPLUSES, EXPORT SHIPMENTS WILL LIELY BE CONFINED TO WHEAT ONLY, PERHAPS UP TO 500,000 TONS.

7. THE IMPLICATION OF POOR CORN CROP IS THAT HUNGARY WILL BE DEPRIVED OF MORE THAN 1 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN EXPORT SALES DURING THE COMING YEAR. THIS MAY COST THE COUNTRY OVER \$100 MILLION DOLLARS IN HOPED FOR HARD CURRENCY EARNINGS.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR SINCE 1972 THAT HUNGARY WAS FORCED TO IMPORT LARGER QUANTITIES OF CORN. BUCHANAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPORTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GRAINS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976VIENNA09214  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760418-1030  
**From:** VIENNA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761164/aaaacebn.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUNGARIAN GRAIN SITUATION FOR 1976/77  
**TAGS:** EAGR, HU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006